

Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXII No. 11

Brentwood, New Hampshire

December 2008

BRENTWOOD'S 2008 TAX RATE

Brentwood's 2008 tax rate has been set and by the time you receive this newsletter, you probably will have received your tax bill. The tax rate has increased from 2007 as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Town Rate	3.64	3.00
Local School Rate	14.37	14.30
State School Rate	2.23	2.23
County Rate	<u>.89</u>	<u>.89</u>
Total Tax Rate	\$21.13	\$20.42

As you can see, the increases come both in the areas of the local school rate and the town rate. As far as the school rate is concerned, while we can tell you that the Exeter Regional Cooperative Schools portion actually went down \$.02 and the Swasey School went up \$.09, we can not provide you with details that result in this outcome. You would need to contact your school boards for this information.

We can, however, address the Town's portion of the tax rate which is responsible for 64 cents of the 71 cent increase. We hope the following explanation will answer any questions you may have:

EXPLANATION OF TOWN'S PORTION OF TAX RATE

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>% change</u>
Town's portion of tax rate	3.64	3.00	17.58%
Gross Appropriations(Total budgeted expenditures)	3,509,238	2,835,596	19.20%
Operating Budget	2,718,484	2,552,696	6.10%
Warrant Articles	790,754	282,900	64.22%
Less: Net Revenues	1,643,474	1,333,948	18.83%
Net Town Appropriation	1,865,764	1,501,648	19.52%

The 17.58% increase in the Town's portion of the tax rate is primarily due to the 64.22% increase in the appropriations for warrant articles that were voted in at the 2008 Town Meeting. The biggest contributor to the increase is the warrant article in the amount of \$325,000 for the Crawley Falls Bridge refurbishment. Other increases can be attributed to an additional \$100,000 being budgeted for road repairs; \$35,000 for the purchase of the Lindon Ball field; and \$25,000 for Grange Hall repairs. While a large portion of the \$325,000 will be refunded from FEMA and the Department of Transportation, the full amount has to be raised by taxation. We have discovered, however, anticipation that the bridge work would be done this year was unrealistic and the majority of the work will not be completed until 2009 and 2010. Therefore, approximately \$76,500 of the \$325,000 will be encumbered for the engineering work that we currently have contracted, and the remainder will be returned to the general fund. There will be a warrant article included next year for the design phase of the one in 2010 for the actual construction. Again, the majority of these expenses will be reimbursed through grants.

Continued on page 2

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD On the Web: www.brentwoodnh.gov**TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR:**

Phone: 642-6400 X 14

Monday–Thursday 9:00-4:30

Tuesday evening 7:00-9:00

Friday 8:30-4:00

Saturday 9:00-12:00

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310

Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:30

Friday 9:00-1:00

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARYPhone: 642-3355 E-mail: bartlettlibrary@comcast.netOn the Web: www.brentwoodlibrary.org

Monday 2-7 Thursday 9-5

Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-1

Wednesday 9-5 Saturday 9-1

Story Hours: Tuesday 10:30 and 2:00 Wednesday 10:30

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Phone: 642-3487

Swasey on the Web: <http://scs.sau16.org>SAU 16 on the Web: <http://www.sau16.org>

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It should also be noted that the revenues figure for 2008 includes \$400,000 from the fund balance that the Selectmen opted to use to reduce the tax rate. This leaves \$717,000 remaining in the fund balance which is within the Department of Revenue's recommended guidelines. Before the addition of the \$400,000 from the fund balance, revenues were down from last year primarily due to the decreased number of building permits, lower interest rate on investments, and decrease in revenue from private duty details.

Brentwood Board of Selectmen**Lindon Ball Field**

The closing on the purchase of the Lindon Ball field took place on November 21, 2008. We would like to thank Beatrice and Russell Gardner, executors for the Lindon Estate, for their support in the entire process and their determination in maintaining Martin Lindon's wishes that Brentwood's youth continues to have use of the ball field.

Wreaths Across America

Brentwood is going to participate in the nationwide "Wreaths Across America" ceremony which honors all who have served and are serving in this nation's armed services. The ceremony will take place at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 13 at the Town Office flagpole. All citizens are encouraged to attend. For more

information, you can contact Karen Phelan at 918-0591 or email her at phelan.karen@comcast.net.

Board of Selectmen**December Recycling Pick-up Dates:**

December 9, 10

December 23, 24

Waste tonnage figures:

	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>October</u>
Tons of mixed solid waste	135.70	128.69
Tons of recycled goods	28.14(17%)	28.12 (17.9%)

These figures include 4½ weeks of collection as there were 5 Wednesdays in the month.

Notes from the Town Clerk

» A friendly reminder to bring your current auto registrations when you come to renew them, or the letter we mailed, as we no longer are receiving preprints.

» The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be closed Thursday, December 13 in order for the carpet to be torn up and new tile put down.

THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,

Brentwood, New Hampshire. Circulation 1,195

Linda Rousseau, Editor 772-4534

Marion Arkell, Treasurer 772-6314

Jim Clark, 642-6211

Ann Chamberlain, 642-8758

Maureen Menter, 679-4353

Business Card Directory: \$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.

Business Article: \$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

Deadline for January Issue: Wednesday, Dec. 19

Mail or bring your articles to Linda Rousseau, 90 Prescott Road, Brentwood, NH 03833,
or e-mail to lindarou@rcn.com

How We Voted on November 4



Drew Vandermale Casts His First Ballot

Town Moderator Dick Chamberlain watched as Brentwood resident Drew Vandermale voted for his first time at the November 4 election.

Election Results

Posted: Wed Nov 05 2008 at 12:38:58pm on the Town Website

President/VP

McCain/Palin 1165
Obama/Biden 1059
Nader/Gonzalez 15
Phillies/Bennett 1
Barr/Root 9

US Senator

Sununu 1169
Shaheen 991
Blevens 56

Governor

Kenney 782
Lynch 1358
Newell 40

Rep. in Congress

Bradley 1139
Shea-Porter 996
Kingsbury 44

Executive Councilor

Prescott 1085
Hollingworth 955

Sheriff

Linehan 1306
Lovejoy 759

State Senator

Barnes 1216
Proulx 790

County Attorney

Reams 1167
Coyle 811

State Representative

Petterson 1247

County Treasurer

Buck 1066
Ahearn 878

Register of Deeds

Stacey 1208
Nugent 756

Register of Probate

Christie 1097
Crapo 878

83% Voter turnout

Brentwood Recreation News

Basketball 2008-2009

Basketball is underway now, and I thank everyone who has volunteered to help out in any capacity. This year we have made some steps in a great direction, with our Grades 3-8 playing games and practicing at the old Talbot Gym in Exeter and K-2 remaining at the Swasey School. The season will be busy and exciting!

Any Baseball or Soccer coaches out there who've forgotten to turn in their first aid kits? Please don't hold onto kits anticipating coaching again next year; these kits need to be returned and used for each sport, and we have 16 teams right now that are without kits. We're missing a large number, so if you've got one, *please* turn it in ASAP!

Red Cross Classes in Brentwood

An Adult CPR class is being offered on **Tuesday, December 9 from 5-9pm** at the Town Offices. Each class individually costs \$45, but there is a substantial discount if you enroll for more than one class. You may enroll by calling (603) 766-5440, or online at www.greatbayredcross.org, under Health and Safety Classes, at the Brentwood location.

Water Country tickets would make great stocking stuffers! Tickets are still \$25, never expire, and are available at the Town Clerk's window and the Recreation Office. Water Country raises prices nearly every year, so this may your last chance for such a low price on tickets. Get a head start on your plans for next summer!

Our website is up and running, we're still adding to the Recreation pages and will always be, so check there for current information as well as forms that you need to fill out: www.brentwoodnh.gov. New information that pops up in between Newsletter printings will be posted online, so check there for updates!

Jessica Pimental, Recreation Director

642-6400 ext. 20 recreation@brentwoodnh.gov
Office hours: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-1:30 Tues. noon-8:30pm

The November Mailing Crew

Many thanks to those in the South Road neighborhood who helped assemble the November *Newsletter* for mailing: Rosalie and Herb Stevens, Paul and Eveline Robinson, John, Anita, Catherine and Danny O'Sullivan, and Brad and Amy Robinson.

Linda Rousseau, Editor

Report from Your State Representative

The November elections showed that southern Rockingham County remains the most Republican and conservative part of the state. Republican candidates for the presidency and the US Senate and House of Representatives received solid majorities in southern Rockingham County. (Barack Obama outpolled John McCain in the county as a whole, however, thanks largely to Portsmouth's votes.) While most of the rest of New Hampshire has seen dramatic gains by Democrats in recent years, southern Rockingham County's voting pattern has not changed much, despite an influx of people from outside the state (mostly from Massachusetts).

Brentwood's voting is consistent with that of the other districts of southern Rockingham County. In 2004, Brentwood voters cast 1,114 votes for George Bush, 913 for John Kerry -- a 55 to 45 percent margin. This year the majority of Brentwood's electorate once again favored the Republican candidate for president; John McCain received 1,165 votes, Barack Obama 1,059, a roughly 53 to 47 percent difference. John Sununu outpolled Jean Shaheen, 1,169 to 991 votes. And Brentwood favored Jeb Bradley over Carol Shea-Porter, 1,139 to 996 votes.

Looking at the state as a whole, the Democrat-Republican numbers in the state Senate are unchanged, 14-10, reflecting that the election results do not indicate an ideological shift in state politics. The Democrats maintain a majority in the House, but it has been reduced by about 20 votes. Just what this will mean in voting on hot-button issues in the House is unclear. For one thing there will be 134 new members in the 400-seat body, and it remains to be seen how this will affect the liberal-conservative spectrum in the House.

Of note is that the NH Senate is the first state senate in the country in which women outnumber men (13 to 11). Moreover, women will fill the four top leadership positions in the legislature: Terie Norelli, House Speaker; Mary Jane Wallner, House majority leader; Sylvia Larsen, Senate president; and Maggie Hassan, Senate majority leader. In the House and Senate combined, women will occupy 38 percent of the seats, about the same as in 2007-2008. This higher than the 24-percent average for state legislatures in the US is not surprising and is not because Democrats are in the majority; in New Hampshire, women have held 30 percent or more of elected positions for almost 30 years.

In November I continued to go to Concord two or three times a week to attend committee hearings or meetings of the two commissions on which I serve (one looking into how to provide cost of living adjustments to the state retirement system, the other to determine whether to make a basic change in the state's Accountancy Act). By the end of November this work had tailed off and it will diminish further in December.

December 3 is the date for Organization Day in the legislature. The governor and executive council will swear in the representatives-elect, who will then elect a speaker of the house, sergeant-at-arms, and clerk. After that, representatives will enter a joint session with the senate to elect a secretary of state and state treasurer.

Come the first week in January, the legislature (General Court) will begin the 2009 half of the 2009-2010 biennium. The House and Senate will continue to meet in the chambers they have been using since 1819, making each house chamber the longest in continuous legislative use in the United States. Representatives and senators will start earning their \$100 annual salaries, still by far the lowest in the country (by contrast California pays its representatives an annual salary of \$116,098 -- the highest in the country; Michigan, at \$79,650, and New York, at \$79,500, aren't too far behind.) So while some New Hampshire residents may dislike the voting records of their elected representatives, they don't have a good case for complaining that the legislators are overpaid.

Although I ran unopposed in the election, I want to express my thanks to all those who voted for me. I am pleased to continue as Brentwood's representative in Concord and, as before, I welcome any comments, suggestions, or other input from the people of our town.

Don Petterson

Phone: 772-4519

e-mail: donpetterson@gmail.com

Blog: <http://statereport.blogspot.com>

Town of Brentwood Budget Committee

The Brentwood Budget Committee will meet in the Brentwood Town Office at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

Monday, November 17, 2008
 Monday, November 24, 2008
 Thursday, December 18, 2008
 Monday, January 5, 2009
 Monday, January 12, 2009
 Monday, January 19, 2009
 Monday, January 26, 2009

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear town and school budgets, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Swasey School Board.

The committee will not vote on recommended budgets until all departments have recommendations from the Selectmen or School Board.

Information about departments will be added to the schedule as it becomes available. The public is invited to attend.

Tracie M. May, Committee Secretary

Club UnderALLS -- TEEN DANCE CLUB

Club UnderALLS welcomed in winter on November 14. With our "Winter Wonderland" theme we enjoyed the dancing and socializing while still needing the air conditioning to keep us cool. We had a good turnout with many new teens attending for the first time.

We have 1 dance remaining this year. Mark your calendars.

December 12, 2008 – Christmas Party

The next mailing of post cards will be the first week in December. If you would like to be on our mailing list send an email to info@clubunderalls.com

The 2009 Calendar:

January 9	February 13	March 13
April 10	May 22	June 19
July 17	August 14	Sept 18
Oct 16	Nov 20	Dec 18

Be sure to check out the photos from previous dances on the website. Birthday Parties welcome. Call Michele for details and special pricing. Club Memberships and T-shirts are available for purchase.

If there are any questions feel free to contact Michele at 603-702-1523, email at info@clubunderalls.com or check out the website www.clubunderalls.com.

Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and siblings for driving your teens to Club UnderALLS. We truly appreciate your support.

Michele Whitehouse

Write an Article for the Newsletter?

We want to thank Deb O'Connor again for her interest and energy in recent months, as she contributed photos and profiles of the Police Department and the Town Office staff. She needs to step back now as family and work duties fill a larger part of her life. But she gave us a great example of how one resident can add so much to the *Newsletter*, to the interest and enjoyment of all.

Others have spoken to us about an idea they have and their interest in writing "some time." Would that "some time" be now? Why not? You've seen how well received one person's efforts were. Your contribution could be one article, it needn't be a series. Write or call me, lindarou@rcn.com or 772-4534.

Linda Rousseau, Editor

Historical Society

Many thanks to those of you who came out to hear our speaker in November and patiently waited for him to appear, as we tried to keep you informed of some of Brentwood's past history with Linda Rousseau and Sandy Thomas extemporaneously bringing to mind events of the past. To our consternation he did not arrive that night, but we have rescheduled him again in January, as we feel Carl Lindblade will be worth hearing. Due to the possibility of snow and thus a parking problem, the program will be held in the lower level of the **Brentwood Community Center**, 190 Route 125 on **Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 pm.**

We will have a regular business meeting on Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 pm at the Historical Society Museum.

Alma Vahey, President

The 8th Annual All-Volunteer "AFTER CHRISTMAS" TREE LIMO SERVICE

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Brentwood's Christmas Tree Limo Service is providing worry-free disposal of your tired, sappy, needle bare Christmas trees.

What do you need to do?

- Call Elyse Seeley at 778-9411 by Friday, January 2nd and provide your name and street address.
- Place your unadorned Christmas tree at the end of your driveway so it is accessible for our drivers.
- Remove all tinsel, as trees will be mulched.
- On the morning of January 3, attach a donation of \$10.00 to the treetop in a weather-proof bag.

Checks can be made payable to the **Brentwood Tree Limo Fund.**



**Save your backs! Save your vehicle's paint!
Let us get sappy!!**

Friends of the Library

Brentwood will be welcoming **Santa Claus** to the Mary Bartlett Library for his **annual visit** on **Saturday, December 6** from 9 am to noon. Don't miss this opportunity for a personal visit with Santa. *Please bring your own camera to take pictures of your children with Santa*, as Polaroids will not be available this year. (We will have a digital camera on hand for those who don't have a camera, but there may be a bit of a wait while pictures are printed.) There will also be craft projects for the children to enjoy. There is no charge to attend this event, but we kindly ask that you bring along a contribution for the local Food Bank and place it in our donation box.

Our annual **Nantucket Basket Raffle** is under way. Thanks to Dave Gibson for donating this beautiful basket, as he has done for several years. The basket is on display at the library counter, where you can purchase 3 tickets for just \$1! Also up for raffle will be a beautiful **Gingerbread House**, carefully crafted by the Kennish family. Sales of both raffle items will benefit The Friends, and the items themselves will add a beautiful touch to your holiday décor.

If you have been to the Library in the last few weeks, you have seen what is offered in this year's **Christmas Craft Fair**, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Fair gives crafters the opportunity to display their wares at the library from early November right up until Christmas, providing them with a little extra exposure. It also gives library patrons a chance to purchase holiday gifts from local residents. The Friends receive 25% of crafters' sales, which is used to purchase children's books. If you would like your homemade and handmade items (nothing commercially produced, please) included in our fair, please call the Library at 642-3355. There are some really lovely items for sale, so do check them out. Our thanks to the crafters who participate as well as the patrons who make purchases!

While you are shopping at the Library, don't forget about the Library and The Friends' merchandise. Show your pride in our wonderful library, whether your travels are close to home or far away. Our new fleece blankets are a great way to stay cozy in the car or on the couch; our canvas bags will carry whatever you may need for your next adventure. We also have cookbooks, note cards and t-shirts at incredible prices. All of these purchases will support the Friends of the Library and our efforts to make the Mary Bartlett Library feel like home.

By now you all have received The Friends' annual **Membership Drive** letter. We all have concerns about the economy and holiday shopping this year, but keep in mind the money raised by the Friends benefits you and our Library all year long. I encourage you to make a donation, however large or small. Our **Benefactor** has generously donated another \$2000 this year and is asking residents to match that donation. We beat it last year, please help us do it again! This additional money

went a long way in providing exceptional programs throughout the year.

Colder days are upon us, which may lead you to think about indoor activities. Keep in mind that the Friends of the Library offer many opportunities to do that with our Pass Programs. There is a file of all of our program offerings on the front table at the library. Be sure to check out the holiday activities offered at **Strawbery Banke Museum**, (www.strawberybanke.org), **Historic New England** (www.historicnewengland.org) and **The Fells** (www.thefells.org). Or perhaps you'd like to travel to Boston to visit the **Museum of Science** (www.mos.org) or the **Children's Museum of Boston** (www.bostonkids.org). Look for additional pass information at the Library.

The Friends of the Library **monthly meeting** for December will be on **Thursday, December 4** at 9:30 am. Why don't you stop by, take a seat and find your place among the Friends? We would welcome you and your ideas. Meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Next month's date is set for January 8. If you would like to receive an email reminder about upcoming meetings, please send an email to marybartlett76@yahoo.com and I will gladly include you on our email list.

Amid all the bustle this time of year, be sure to take time to share the beauty and the spirit of this holiday season with your family and friends.

Michelle Siudut, Publicity

Donate your Shaw's Receipts

The Carriage Barn Equestrian Center Therapeutic Riding Program of Newton, New Hampshire has been approved to participate in the Shaw's Receipt Rewards program. The program will donate 1% of receipt totals to help raise funds for our therapeutic riding and driving programs. To participate is easy – receipt collection bins can be found at the entrances of Shaw's Supermarkets in Stratham and in Plaistow, New Hampshire. Just stuff your receipts in these bins on your way out of the store or at a later date.

You can also mail your receipts to Attn: Shaw's Receipts, The Carriage Barn, 6 Sarah's Way, Newton, NH 03858. The Carriage Barn Equestrian Center Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that seeks to enhance physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional healing and strengthening through equine activities. For more information, please contact us at carriagebarn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140.

Janet Wojciechowski, DVM, DACVD
Peabody Drive, Brentwood

Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

Santa Claus is on his way to the Library and as usual, everyone is excited about the big visit. This is just one more terrific Friends of the Library sponsored event

The Friends are purchasing a new database for our circulation system. I know this does not seem very exciting to the average reader of this column, but believe me when I say all of us at the Library will be delighted to see our outdated Winnebago system replaced. The volume of the collection and circulation is making the old system obsolete in a hurry. So, once again, thank you Friends for your generous support.

Many thanks to thank Cub Scout Pack 192, Den 5 for raking up a huge amount of leaves on what was probably the windiest day of the year.

The annual Christmas Craft Fair (once again, a Friends' event) is up and running. There are many uniquely crafted items that will make terrific gifts, especially for those people on your list who have everything. The crafters turn over twenty-five percent of their proceeds to the Friends, who give it to the Library for children's books. Over the past twenty years this sale has added hundreds of good books to our children's collection.

Thanks to the Brentwood Gardeners who have once again cleaned up the grounds and made us look good. Joyce Keegal has spent many hours planning and planting the Library grounds. On top of that she picks lovely bouquets to enhance our already pleasant workplace.

Our **Friday Night Flick for the December 12** is *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, rated PG. Looking ahead to January, the movie for Friday, **January 9** is *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, rated PG and the **Ladies Night Movie** scheduled for Thursday, **January 15** is *Mamma Mia*, which is also PG rated.

Come and see Santa even if you haven't any little ones to bring with you. Seeing the children so happy and excited (except for the occasional traumatized crier) is guaranteed to make you feel the spirit of Christmas. All of us at the Library wish all of you a Happy New Year. Come and visit us in 2009. Make it a resolution to discover all we have to offer.

Marilyn Morehead, Library Director

Birth

Daren Filomeno and Tracy Descoteaux of Middle Road are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Jacob Anthony, born October 30 at Parkland Medical Center. Maternal grandparents are Robert and Joyce Descoteaux of Hampstead, N.H. Paternal grandparents are Rocco and Carlene Filomeno of Haverhill, Mass.

Brentwood Seniors

The Brentwood Seniors will have their annual Christmas luncheon on **Wednesday, December 10** at the Brentwood Community Center, 190 Route 125.

Members are encouraged to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 am. The business meeting will begin at 11:30. The pot luck luncheon buffet will be served after the business meeting. Members will be called to confirm what dish they are bringing for the luncheon.

After lunch there will be a Christmas musical program by students from Swasey Central School, coordinated by the music instructor Juliette Gavin.

Members are reminded to bring an unwrapped gift for a child, which will be given to the Fire Department's Christmas Toy Drive.

Linda Rousseau for the Seniors

Thanks to All Who Wrote This Year

The end of December 2008 brings us to the end of thirty-two years for the *Brentwood Newsletter*. That is a long run for a publication like this, where no one has ever earned a penny in the process.

But this is a special town, with many residents who are interested, able and willing to put their information and ideas in writing. Without their contributions the *Newsletter* would have faded long ago. This year some 90 individuals provided articles and items of information to share with the town. Taken altogether, it makes a great difference in what we know and think about our town.

In behalf of all the residents, a sincere thank-you to those who took the time to write this year.

Linda Rousseau, Editor

Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and friendship are extended by their friends and neighbors to the family of Mary Jane Nolan of Middle Road, who died on November 2 at her home. She had been a resident of Brentwood since 1991. Until her retirement in 1995 she held several positions at Central Connecticut State University, most recently as assistant director of student center operations.

News from the Swasey Parent Faculty Group

Due to the busy holiday season we will not meet in December, but mark your calendars for **Tuesday, January 20**. We will meet at **6:30** in the Swasey School Library. Once again, we will have a wonderful prize to raffle! Congratulations to our November winner, Jennifer Najjar. She won a VIP parking spot for Grandfriends' Day!

Note Card Fundraiser: The note cards will be coming home with the children the second week of December. So keep your eyes on those backpacks!

Check out our website! <http://swaseypfg.pbwiki.com/> . You can find minutes from meetings, PFG fundraising information, any forms sent home, upcoming events and much more.

BOX TOPS – Keep sending in those box tops! We are well on our way to raising the needed funds for the new sound system! Remember you can send them in with your child or drop them off at the public library. Please check the PFG website for more information.

Upcoming Event: Brentwood Night at Action Kids Athletics (formerly Gymnastics at Brentwood Commons). Enjoy a night out while your children have a great time with some friends. Date: **January 24, 2009. Time: 6 – 8:30 p.m.** for children ages 4 to 5th grade. Cost: \$10 per child. More information and sign-up forms will come home in the Wednesday folder.

Pam Carr

Historical Note

Tallow Candles

These were made every year, not two at a time in a mold, but by the dozen. A series of sticks, about two feet long, small were collected and about a dozen wicks the length of a candle were placed on each. There were placed between chairs and mother sat down and slightly twisted them with a pail or kettle of warm tallow near by. She dipped one group in the tallow and replaced it on the sticks between the chairs, then took the second stick, and so on. By the time she had dipped the last one, the first was ready to be dipped again.

This continued until the candles were the proper size. The tallow had to be reheated as required. When all were cool, the bottom end of each candle was made smooth with a knife so that it would fit into the candlestick, and the whole number was placed in a special box which was kept in the cellar.

Brentwood's 225 Years, p. 55

Business Card Directory

Following is an alphabetical list of those whose cards are in this month's Business Card Directory. The businesses are located in Brentwood, or, if located out of town, the owner or manager is a town resident. They are interested in making their services available to you, their fellow residents. Save these pages and consult them when you're looking for a service.

Adventure Dog Daycare – Shannon O'Brien
Appliance Services, Inc. – Wayne St. Hilaire
Arbonne International – Michelle Siudut
Beebop Technologies – Sean Hartnett
Brentwood Chiropractic Center – Will Herrick
Brentwood Country Animal Hospital – Jody Kaufman
Brentwood Fence – Rob Thibeault
Brentwood Power Equipment Center – David Flagg
Burke's Truck Rentals & Sales – Mark Francis
Bus and Chassis LLC – Aaron Ingraham
Buxton Oil & Water – Donna Buxton
Cadieux's Flooring – Jill Cadieux
Creative Self Storage – Peter Morin
Deer Hill Electric – Roger Savage
Difeo Oil & Propane – Robert Locascio
Discovery Toys – Elizabeth Faria
Exeter Motor Works/Exeter Foreign Car – Dan Gill
Gallant, D.L. Equipment Repair – Dave Gallant
Goodrich, Peter – Carpentry & Construction
Hometown Heating, LLC – Carol Holt
MacMahon Renovation Solutions -- Bruce MacMahon
Mansfield, Douglas M. – Atty. at Law
Mary Kay – Paula Beebe
Michaud Bus Sales – Jim Michaud
Michelle's Pet Spaw – Michelle Powers
Miller, Tracey, Nutritionist
Mortenson-DuFresne Monumental Works – Doug Finan
Murphy & Murphy Real Estate – Dot Murphy
New England Dragway -- Larry Bean
New Venture Pet Sitting – Kim Belliveau
Nici Automotive Services – Gene Nici
Northeast Passage Financial Advisors – Howard Cadwell
Picture Perfect Photography – David Thomas
Real Estate Hub – Michael Hubbard
Seacoast Mills Building Supply – Mary Bosch
Seekamp Environmental Consulting – Patrick Seekamp
Swasey, Russell – Builder
Tibbetts, John D., Builder
Tony Leclerc Insurance Agency -- Tony Leclerc
Wildlife Control Operator – Dan Siudut
Yard Work – Kim Lord

First Baptist Church News

The First Baptist Church of Brentwood will hold a short traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m., with pastor Hastings leading the service. All are welcome and invited to attend. The church is at the corner of North Road and Route 125.

Samaritans Purse gift boxes

A thank you to those of you who contributed Christmas boxes to "Samaritans' Purse," a project we have become involved with in the fall of the year. The shoe-size boxes are headed to children of the world, including the USA, who are in need of Christmas cheer due to unfortunate events in their lives, showing them that people a world away care. You helped us surpass a goal of 100 by making the total 146!! For our little church that was a great undertaking. Perhaps next year we'll challenge the other churches in town. If there is an interest you may call me at 679-8635.

Alma Vahey

The Brentwood Gardeners

This month the Brentwood Gardeners will put our agenda aside and replace it with the opportunity to share holiday cheer at our Annual Holiday Potluck. This year we will congregate at the home of Ann Dillon – Monday, **December 15, 6 pm, 7 Wendell Drive**. If you have been considering joining this group, the holiday potluck is a great way to meet the Gardeners. In fact, this was the first event I attended - wow, 7 years ago. I was warmly welcomed and you will be, too! If you would like to attend, please contact Ann at dill5@comcast.net to let her know what type of appetizer or dessert you would like to contribute. We also hold a Yankee Swap, with gifts valued up to \$10.

Our meetings *usually* take place at 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Brentwood Community Center. There is no meeting this month as we will all be too busy with Christmas, so our next meeting will be January 28 when we will enjoy a bonsai demonstration and perhaps even create a bonsai of our own!

If you would like more information or have any questions please send an email to brentwoodgardeners@yahoo.com!

Michelle Siudut
for the Brentwood Gardeners

Worship on Christmas Eve

The members and friends of Pilgrim United Church of Christ Brentwood-Kingston invite you to join us on **Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM** for our traditional **Christmas Eve candlelight service**.

Come sing the familiar carols and hear the wonderful Christmas story. Come celebrate the joy of Christmas and the wonder of God's love. Pilgrim Church is located at 197 Middle Road in Brentwood.

Santa-Around-Town

Mark your calendars! The Brentwood Volunteer Firemen's Association will be conducting their annual Santa visits via fire truck to every street in town on **Sunday, December 21**. We recommend having coats, shoes, and cameras ready to go. Sirens will sound as Santa approaches your street. So please listen for the sirens, and when you hear them, come on out to the road to greet Santa!

Alan Prina
for the Brentwood Volunteer Firemen's Association

Toy Drive 2008 – Brentwood Fire Dept.

Please help out our needy families in the town of Brentwood. Just take an "Ornament" off one of our Christmas trees, located at Grace Ministries Church or the Town Office Building. Return the "ornament item" unwrapped to a drop-off box at the Town Offices, Brentwood Country Store, Action Kids Athletics (formerly Gymnastics at Br. Commons), Grace Ministries Church or the Brentwood Fire Department.

All money donations are put toward un-purchased gifts and food baskets for the families. Final drop-off date will be Thursday, December 18. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-0847.

Donna Vadeboncoeur
Toy Drive Coordinator, Brentwood Fire Department



Pictured above are members of Cub Scout Pack 192 as they completed their annual "Scouting for Food" drive. All the food went to the food pantry of the Pilgrim Church UCC, Brentwood-Kingston.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 5 **Grace Ministries International Christmas Tea – 7-9 pm**, GMI church, Rte. 125
- Dec. 6 **Pilgrim Church Christmas Fair – 9:00am-1:00pm**, Pilgrim Church, Middle Road
Santa at Bartlett Library – 9:00am to noon. Bring your own cameras please.
Bluegrass Christmas Concert – 7:30 pm, Pilgrim Church
- Dec. 8 School Board meeting – 6:00 pm, Swasey School
- Dec. 9 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Dec. 10 **Brentwood Seniors Christmas luncheon – 11:30 am**, Brentwood Community Center
 Ladies Auxiliary – 7:00 pm, Fire Hall
 Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Dec. 11 Brentwood Historical Society – 7:00pm, regular business meeting, Historical Society Museum
- Dec. 12 **Club UnderALLS dance – 7-10 pm**, Brentwood Community Center
Friday Night Flick – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
- Dec. 13 **“Wreaths across America” ceremony – 12 noon**, Town Office flagpole
- Dec. 15 Gardeners' Christmas potluck supper, home of Anne Dillon – 6:00 pm.
 Library Trustees – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library.
- Dec. 16 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Dec. 18 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
 Budget Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
Final Drop-off date for Fire Dept. Toy Drive
- Dec. 23 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
 Recreation Commission – 7:00 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office Building
- Dec. 24 **Christmas by Candlelight – 5:00 pm, Grace Ministries International, 197 Route 125**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 pm, First Baptist Church, corner North Rd. & Rte 125
Christmas Eve Candles & Carols Service – 7:00 pm, Pilgrim Church UCC, 197 Middle Rd.
- Jan. 3 **“After Christmas” Tree Limo Service.** See page 5.
- Jan. 5 Trails Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
 Firemen's Association – 7:30 pm, Firehouse
- Jan. 6 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Jan. 7 Cemetery Trustees – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
- Jan. 8 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library
 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Jan. 7 Firemen's Association – 7:30 pm, Firehouse
- Jan. 8 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building

The public is welcome at all above events

The Brentwood Newsletter
 c/o Linda Rousseau, Editor
 90 Prescott Road
 Brentwood, NH 03833-6501

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